



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 150
E-MAIL RETENTION AND ARCHIVING

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Public Records Law declares that the public records and information compiled by the agencies of North Carolina government are the property of the people; and

WHEREAS, all e-mail messages sent and received in connection with state business are public records; and,

WHEREAS, a transparent government and the citizens' right to access public records, are of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, as a result of changing technology and the need to ensure that public records are properly preserved, I established the E-Mail Records Review Panel to review and recommend changes to the current e-mail and electronic text communication record retention policies for North Carolina's executive branch agencies; and

WHEREAS, the E-Mail Records Review Panel met six times, which included public hearings where the Panel heard from representatives from the North Carolina Press Association, the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters, the State Employees Association, and other interested parties; and

WHEREAS, the E-Mail Records Review Panel submitted to me its recommendations and proposed changes to current e-mail and electronic text communication record retention policies; and

WHEREAS, I have carefully reviewed and considered the E-Mail Records Review Panel's recommendations and proposed changes regarding current e-mail and electronic text communication ("e-mail") record retention policies.